

that you're in our prayers and in the hearts of the American people.

May God bless you, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. at the National Naval Medical Center. In his remarks, he referred to Rep. Christopher Van Hollen and Lt. Gov. Anthony G. Brown

of Maryland; Capt. Lorenzo York, USN, command chaplain, National Naval Medical Center; former Sen. Robert J. Dole and former Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala, Cochairs, President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors; and Jolene and Frank Lilley, parents of Staff Sgt. Scott Lilley, USAF.

## Remarks on Departure From the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda July 3, 2008

### *Rescue of Hostages in Colombia*

Yesterday I had the opportunity to speak to President Uribe of Colombia. And he called to give me the good news that hostages had been rescued, including three Americans that had been held since 2003. I congratulated the President. I asked him to congratulate his military and those who had planned it. And I told him what a joyous occasion it must be to know that the plan had worked, that people who were unjustly held are now free to be with their families.

And so I'm proud of our relationship with Colombia, and I'm proud of my friend President Uribe. And I appreciate his courage and his strong leadership and the successful operations they waged.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:56 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Marc Gonsalves, Thomas Howes, and Keith Stansell, former hostages held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

## Interview With Foreign Print Journalists July 2, 2008

*The President.* So here's the thing, I'm going to have a few comments, and then got time for one question apiece, so calibrate your questions. You can do like our press, ask three questions in one question.

Anyway, what are the rules for the American press corps—French and American press corps?

*White House Press Secretary Dana Perino.* It's embargoed until they have a chance to use it themselves.

*The President.* I'm talking about these people.

*White House Press Secretary Perino.* Yes, they hold it until after it's already published.

*The President.* I got you. That's presuming they read Japanese papers.

*White House Press Secretary Perino.* Toby [Tabassum Zakaria, Reuters] does.

*The President.* Okay.

First of all, I'm looking forward to this. As you know, it's my last G-8. These are